

**Notice of Allowability**

Application No.

10/725,961

Examiner

BINH Q. TRAN

Applicant(s)

YAMAMOTO ET AL.

Art Unit

3748

**-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address--**

All claims being allowable, PROSECUTION ON THE MERITS IS (OR REMAINS) CLOSED in this application. If not included herewith (or previously mailed), a Notice of Allowance (PTOL-85) or other appropriate communication will be mailed in due course. **THIS NOTICE OF ALLOWABILITY IS NOT A GRANT OF PATENT RIGHTS.** This application is subject to withdrawal from issue at the initiative of the Office or upon petition by the applicant. See 37 CFR 1.313 and MPEP 1308.

1. ☐ This communication is responsive to \_\_\_\_\_.
2. ☒ The allowed claim(s) is/are 1-11.
3. ☒ The drawings filed on 12/02/2003 are accepted by the Examiner.
4. ☒ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
  - a) ☒ All    b) ☐ Some\*    c) ☐ None    of the:
    1. ☒ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
    2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. \_\_\_\_\_.
    3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this national stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

\* Certified copies not received: \_\_\_\_\_.


Applicant has THREE MONTHS FROM THE "MAILING DATE" of this communication to file a reply complying with the requirements noted below. Failure to timely comply will result in ABANDONMENT of this application.

**THIS THREE-MONTH PERIOD IS NOT EXTENDABLE.**

5. ☐ A SUBSTITUTE OATH OR DECLARATION must be submitted. Note the attached EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT or NOTICE OF INFORMAL PATENT APPLICATION (PTO-152) which gives reason(s) why the oath or declaration is deficient.
  6. ☐ CORRECTED DRAWINGS (as "replacement sheets") must be submitted.
    - (a) ☐ including changes required by the Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) attached
      - 1) ☐ hereto or 2) ☐ to Paper No./Mail Date \_\_\_\_\_.
    - (b) ☐ including changes required by the attached Examiner's Amendment / Comment or in the Office action of Paper No./Mail Date \_\_\_\_\_.
- Identifying indicia such as the application number (see 37 CFR 1.84(c)) should be written on the drawings in the front (not the back) of each sheet. Replacement sheet(s) should be labeled as such in the header according to 37 CFR 1.121(d).
7. ☐ DEPOSIT OF and/or INFORMATION about the deposit of BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL must be submitted. Note the attached Examiner's comment regarding REQUIREMENT FOR THE DEPOSIT OF BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL.

**Attachment(s)**

1. ☒ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
2. ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
3. ☒ Information Disclosure Statements (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08),  
Paper No./Mail Date 03/15/2004
4. ☐ Examiner's Comment Regarding Requirement for Deposit  
of Biological Material
5. ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
6. ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413),  
Paper No./Mail Date \_\_\_\_\_
7. ☐ Examiner's Amendment/Comment
8. ☒ Examiner's Statement of Reasons for Allowance
9. ☐ Other \_\_\_\_\_

  
BINH Q. TRAN  
Primary Examiner  
Art Unit: 3748

### **DETAILED ACTION**

Receipt and entry of Applicant's Preliminary Amendment dated May 25, 2004 is acknowledged.

#### ***Allowable Subject Matter***

The following is an examiner's statement of reasons for allowance:

The prior art fails to disclose or render obvious the claimed combination including a spark arrester which is removably attachable to the main body and which comprises a tail pipe; wherein the muffler is configured such that when the spark arrester is attached to the main body, exhaust flow is made to pass through at least one bulkhead three times by the spark arrester installed so as to connect the expansion chambers and by the plurality of communicating pipes fixed so as to connect the expansion chambers, and when the spark arrester is removed, exhaust flow may pass through the communicating pipes and may bypass one of the plurality of expansion chambers so as to be released to the outside.

The prior art fails to disclose or render obvious the claimed combination including a regular spark arrester which is selectively removably attachable to the main body to define a regular configuration of the muffler system for use in public road travel, and which comprises a tail pipe, wherein a portion of the regular spark arrester fits through the hole in the second bulkhead; and a racing spark arrester which is alternately attachable to the main body to define a racing configuration of the muffler system, wherein the hole in the second bulkhead is left open and unobstructed in the racing configuration.

Any comments considered necessary by applicant must be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee and, to avoid processing delays, should preferably accompany the issue fee. Such submissions should be clearly labeled "Comments on Statement of Reasons for Allowance."

***Prior Art***

The prior art made of record and not relied upon is considered pertinent to applicant's disclosure and consists of seven patents:

Yamaguchi et al. (Pat. No. 5969299), Yasuda (Pat. No. 6394225), Pawlina et al. (Pat. No. 3677364), Foster et al. (Pat. No. 3786896), Chandler et al. (Pat. No. 5451728), Sato et al. (Pat. No. 5857327), and Okuma et al. (Pat. No. 5627351) all disclose an exhaust gas purification for use with an internal combustion engine.

*Conclusion*

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Examiner Binh Tran whose telephone number is (571) 272-4865. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday-Friday from 8:30 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Thomas E. Denion, can be reach on (571) 272-4859. The fax phone numbers for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned are (703) 872-9306 for regular communications and for After Final communications.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).

BT  
April 28, 2005



Binh Q. Tran  
Patent Examiner  
Art Unit 3748